

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02374 040721Z

13

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 043326

O 031049Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7782

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T AMMAN 2374

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS JO MO

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF F5A AIRCRAFT FROM JORDAN TO MOROCCO

REF: AMMAN 2334(NOTAL)

1. REFTEL REPORTED KING HUSSEIN LESS COMMITTED THAN BEFORE TO TRANSFER OF AIRCRAFT TO MOROCCO, BUT HE WANTS USG TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY DECISION NOT TO GO THROUGH WITH TRANSFERS. KING HUSSEIN SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT DEAL POSSIBLY RELATED TO RECENT PROSPECT OF NOW REPLACEMENTS FROM GOM IF JAORANS AIRCRAFT DAMAGED CHANGED PERSPECTIVE OF RELATIVE URGENCY OVER PAST FEW MONTHS AS SPANISH SAHARA ISSUE HAS SETTLED DOWN AND ARAB ISRAELI AND INTRA ARAB CONFLICTS WITH CONTINUED UNCERTAINTIES AND DANGERS, RJAF COMMANDERS OPPOSITION AND NEED FOR AIRCRAFT TO MEET LOCAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS AND OBVIOUS IRONY OF KING GIVING UP 25-30 PERCENT OF HIS AIR FORCE AT TIME WHEN PRESENT HAWK MISSILE PROBLEMS AND PENDING SOVIET CONTACTS FORCUS ATTENTION ON KINGS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN MODERN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM FOR JORDAN. AT SAME TIME KINGS STANDING AND CREDIBILITY WITH CONSERVATIVE MANARCHAL WING OF ARAB STATES AND WHAT HE UNDERSTANDS IS POSSIBLY SHAH'S WISH FOR TRANSFER LEAD HIM TO VIEW HE CANNOT RENEGE ON DEAL NOW ON HIS OWN.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 AMMAN 02374 040721Z

2. IF US WERE TO TURN DOWN REQUEST FOR TRANSFER WE WOULD HELP KING HUSSEIN OVER HIS DILEMMA BUT NO DOUBT OPEN OURSELVES TO CRITICISM IN RABAT AND PERHAPS TEHRAN. ON THE OTHER HAND TO GO FORWARD AND CONCUR IN TRANSFER WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT JORDANS MILITARY CAPABILITY AND RJAF TRAINING PROGRAMS MIGHT WELL PRECIPITATE HIGH LEVEL RESIGNATIONS AND OTHER DISSENT WITHIN RJAF BE UNTIMELY NOW IN MIDDLE EAST SITUATION WHICH IS EXPERIENCING SOME NEW INSTABILITIES AND OPEN DOOR FOR KING TO ARGUE HE NEEDS USSR AIRCRAFT TO RENEW AND STRENGTHEN HIS AIR FORCE. LATTER IF CONSUMMATED COULD SPUR CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM AND ATTACKS ON TRADITIONAL US ASSISTANCE FOR JORDAN

3. WITH ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND EMBASSY SEES FOLLOWING OPTIONS

A. GO THROUGH WITH CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST AND GIVE AUTHORITY FOR TRANSFER. IN THAT EVENT WE BELIEVE KING HUSSEIN WOULD TRANSFER THE AIRCRAFT WITH ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES ALREADY MENTIONED.

B. GO THROUGH WITH CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST BUT ONCE OBTAINED HOLD TRANSFER AUTHORIZATION IN ABEYANCE WITH ARGUMENT THAT SPANISH SAHARA ISSUE QUIETED DOWN RELATIVE TO DANGERS IN MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS IN VIEW OF IMPENDING MAY UNDO OF RENEWAL PROBLEM INCREASING TENSION ON WEST BANK STILL SHORT FUSE IN LEBANON. THAT APPROACH (PLUS ARGUMENT THAT IT REDUCED JORDANS AIRCRAFT REQUIREMENT FOR POSSIBLE SOVIET AIRCRAFT) MIGHT REDUCE CRITICISM IN RABAT (AND TEHRAN) OF REFUSAL TO GIVE TRANSFER AUTHORITY NOW. HOWEVER BY LEAVING IT UP TO US TO DECIDE WHEN CONDITIONS OF MOROCCO ALGERIA DISPUTE WARRANT AIRCRAFT TRANSFER THAT OPTION WOULD INJECT US JUDGEMENTALLY INTO SUBSTANCE OF MOROCCO ALGERIA DISPUTE IN WAY WE HAVE NOT BEEN BEFORE.

C. GO THROUGH WITH CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST BUT APPROVE ACTUAL TRANSFER OF ONLY TEN OF GOJ'S TWENTY F5A AIRCRAFT FOR TIME BEING (HOLDING THE OTHER TEN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 AMMAN 02374 040721Z

FOR POSSIBLE LATER TRANSFER) WITH ARGUMENT THAT MOROCCAN ABSORPTION CAPACITY AND RELATIVE TEMPERATURES OF MOROCCO ALGERIA AND ARAB ISRAELI CONFLICTS NOW WARRANT THAT BALANCEM SUCH AS APPROACH WOULD GO FAR TOWARD ALLOWING KING TO KEEP HIS CREDIBILITY AMONG HIS ARAB FRIENDS, PRESERVE FOR MOROCCO SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE OF ARMS TRANSFER AND DELIVER TO RABAT NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT THAT IS NOW AS FAR BEYOND ITS CAPACITY TO ABSORB AS WOULD BE TWENTY

TOTAL OF 26 IF IRANIAN F-5A INCLUDED.

MOREOVER THAT SOLUTION STANDS BETTER CHANCE OF BEING
ACCEPTED BY RJAF LEADERS WOULDNOT DISRUPT RJAR
TRAINING PROGRAM AND IT WOULD OFFER SOMEWHAT LESS RATIONALE
THAN WOULD TWENCY AIRCRAFT TRANSFER FOR GOJ TO ARGUE
PRESSING NEED FOR OTHER AIRACRAFT WOULD REDUCE EXPOSURE TO
QUESTIONING WHY JORDAN SHOULD CONTINUE TO RECEIVE
GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE WHEN IT "GIVES AWAY
EXPENSIVE WEAPONRY")

D. ITHDRAW CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST AND REFUSE
TRANSFER THAT THIS TIME. EMBASSY ASSUMES SUCH BLATANT
QUUREFUSAL ESPECIALLY FOLLOWING EARLIER INDICATIONS OF
APPROVAL, WOULD BE TOO COSTLY TO OUR INTERESTS IN
RABAT(AND TEHRAN,) IT WOULD ALSO UNDERMING KING
HUSSEIN' PSOTION IN MOROCCO IRAN AND MAYBE AMONG
ARAB PENINSULA MONARCHIES.

4. ON BLANCE EMBASSY WOULD RECOMMEND OPTION "CHARLIES"
HOWEVER SOME UNKNOWS OF SITUATION REMAIN OR MIGHT
RISE TO IMPORTANCE AS TIME GOES BY. ALTHOUGH MOROCCAN
AMBASSADOR IN AMMAN SAYS HE RECEIVES SEVERAL TELEPHONE
CALLS A WEKK FROM RABAT (HE SAID THREE CALL FROM
KING HASSAN DIRECTLY) ON STATUS OF WEAPONS TRANSFERS, WE
WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY RABAT'S UNDATE OF GOM'S SENSE
OF URGENCY TODAY IN RECEICING GOJS F5A AIRACRAFT.
SIMILARLY WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY TEHRAN'S REACTION
TO KING HUSSEINS INDICATION THAT SHAH PRESSING HIM
TO TRANSFER MOROCCO THE TWENTY F5A AIRCRAFT THAT
JORDAN RECEIVED AS GIFT FROM IRAN. (ONE INTERESTING
REPORT WE HAVE RECEIVED IS THAT SITUATION IS REVERSED
AND SHAH SCOLDED KING FOR AGREEING TO TRANSFER OF
AIRCRAFT WHICH MADE KING MAD.)

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 AMMAN 02374 040721Z

5. IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUINGS DIFFICULTY OBER THE
HAWK ISSUES AND FACT THAT THIS ISSUE COULD
INTERTWINCE IN NON PRODUCTIVE WAY RECOMMENDED TACTICAL
APPROCH IS THA WE NOT RPT NOT GO FORWARD
WITH PRESENTATIONS TO CONGRESS OF AIRCRAFT TRANSFER PACKAGE
AT LEAST UNTIL WE SEE HOW HAWK ISSUE WILLL TURN OUT, AND UNTIL
DEPARTMENT HAS HAD A CHANCE TO REVIEW ABOVE PROPOSALS
AND RECEIVE ANY REACTION FROM RABAT AND TEHRAN.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976AMMAN02374
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760170-0986
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760499/aaaadhzhz.tel
Line Count: 164
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSFER OF F5A AIRCRAFT FROM JORDAN TO MOROCCO
TAGS: MASS, JO, MO
To: STATE TEHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006